POVERTY ERADICATION, SOCIAL PROTECTION AND SOCIAL SERVICES
FEMINIST AND WOMEN’S ACTION PLAN THEME 2

Poverty eradication, social protection and social services for female irregular migrants have historically been governed by a complex set of laws and policies across institutional levels (SDG 16). The 1976 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, for instance, recognizes the right to work, including the right of everyone to the opportunity to gain their living by work which they freely choose or accept (Article 6). The Convention does not qualify this right by migration status, rather it holds that “everyone” should enjoy the right to work and with that “fair wages and equal remuneration for work of equal value without distinction of any kind” (Article 7). In this context, the Convention stresses that women are guaranteed “conditions of work not inferior to those enjoyed by men, with equal pay for equal work” (Article 7).

At Beijing +25, we have made some progress, but much remains yet to be achieved. While the 2018 Global Compact for Migration provides important guidelines on poverty eradication, social protection and social services for female irregular migrants, it assigns significant discretion to states to establish definitions of regular and irregular migration upon which labor market access is determined. In its provisions to enhance availability and flexibility in labor market access (Objective 5) the Compact only provides for reduced visa and permit processing timeframes for regular migrants, not irregular migrants who aspire to obtain regular migration status through prospects of work.

Due to limited options to move from irregular to regular migration status, irregular migrants have been pushed into the informal labor market and have encountered precarious working conditions and exploitative pay. This is particularly the case for female irregular migrants. Although programs such as the United States Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) include legal labor market access for qualified recipients, these programs do not present sustainable solutions for individuals to find pathways to regular migration status.

To ensure that poverty eradication, social protection and social services for female irregular migrants can be achieved, the Center for Migration, Gender, and Justice has identified five key demands for the international community at Beijing +25:

1. PUT HUMAN RIGHTS AT THE INTERSECTION OF MIGRATION AND GENDER AT THE TOP OF THE AGENDA!
2. PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS ON THE MOVE AND IN HOST COUNTRIES!
3. ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE AND EDUCATION ABOUT MIGRANT EXPERIENCES!
4. DENOUNCE ANTI-MIGRANT AND GENDER-BASED HATRED AND VIOLENCE!
5. PROMOTE PARTNERSHIPS WITH MIGRANT COMMUNITIES!

The Center for Migration, Gender, and Justice (CMGJ) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that addresses human rights at the intersection of migration and gender.

Our goal is to shrink spaces between migrant communities and governing bodies. We believe that justice necessitates shared agency, representation, and accountability in protecting human rights for all.

CMGJ operates in four key areas:
Research
Advocacy
Education
Community

Research
We believe that there is a need for refined knowledge on human rights of migrants.
We produce knowledge for change!

Advocacy
We believe that migrants must be involved in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of laws/policies that govern them.
We speak knowledge to power!

Education
We believe that education is key to the protection of human rights of migrants.
We share knowledge!

Community
We believe that community safeguards human rights of migrants.
We put knowledge into practice!

Protect Human Rights With Us!
Find us on these platforms to see what we are up to and how you can get involved!

Email: info@migrationgenderjustice.com
Website: www.migrationgenderjustice.com
Facebook: @migrationgenderjustice
Instagram: @cmgj_ngo
Twitter: @cmgj_ngo
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Migration + Gender = Protection!

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